

8 Valley Road  
Bethany, CT 06524  
22 February 2021

Government Administration & Elections Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly

Re: Support for

[with concerns] S.B. No. 1057 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
AND EARLY VOTING.

S.B. No. 1064 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY VOTING.

H.B. No. 5004 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING.

H.J. No. 1 - RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO  
ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

S.J. No. 29 - RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

[with concern] S.B. No. 713 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF ABSENTEE  
BALLOT APPLICATIONS.

H.B. No. 6693 - AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING.

Members of the Committee:

1) Details on Early Voting (SB 1057, SB 1064, HB 5004)

As a member of the League of Women Voters, I helped work toward a Yes vote on last year's ballot question to get Connecticut started on providing in-person Early Voting for our electors. I have worked as a registrar of voters in the town of Bethany, served as an election moderator, an Absentee Ballot counter and moderator, and an Election Day administrator. I still volunteer in our ROV office to help keep the rolls up to date. So, my views on the details proposed are based on a one-polling-place municipality, but certainly not the smallest town in Connecticut.

Any EV proposal requires more time from elections workers and in Bethany requires use of rooms that might be needed by other departments. My registrars have expressed preference for a "no more than 10 days" version, favoring **SB 1057**, because it will be easier to address labor and location. Similarly, excluding referendum voting will help the smaller towns.

I was surprised to see language about same-day registration for primaries in both **SB 1057 (line 223 and following)** and **SB 1064 (line 140 and following)**. I had not heard people locally discussing this before reading the bills. Although this would be an additional convenience to voters, especially the Unaffiliated voters coming on the day of primaries, and although I understand it would be expedient to take care of this detail now, I don't believe that my town is ready to add this to considerations. For either Presidential Preference or

state/federal primaries in Bethany, it means another 2-3 positions to fill, another commission that has to be kicked out of their usual meeting room.

**I strongly suggest that same-day registration for primaries be put off until such time that state/federal primaries be moved out of the Dog Days of Summer.** Recruiting workers for August to stay awake for those voters who are not on vacation, sitting in a non-air conditions room. Instituting primary day registration for August seems to waste what resources we have.

2) Resolutions to amend the state Constitution (HJ 1, SJ 29)

Now that the pandemic has taught us to adapt to expanded use of Absentee Ballots, I believe Connecticut is ready to move toward addressing absentee voting outside of our state Constitution. Please advance both resolutions to the entire Assembly for approval.

3) Curing absentee ballots (SB 713, HB 6693)

The effort to allow voters to correct mistakes on their AB envelopes is good. I hope that information on voters who uses absentee ballots, if made public, will be carefully used in FOI requests, which have become more frequent in recent years.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

Very truly yours,  
Pua Ford

Cc: GAE committee members